Event Vetting

Government employees, particularly high-level officials like United States Attorneys, are subject to ethical restrictions governing the types of events they may attend. Some restrictions relate to benefits, including luncheons, dinners, awards, and tokens of appreciation they may accept. Other restrictions relate, among other things, to participation in events that are sponsored by persons who do business with or lobby the Government; that have a fundraising component; where it may appear that official attendance is being used to promote the event or the sponsor; or where elected officials may be in attendance. To assist us in vetting compliance with government ethical restrictions, we would appreciate it if you could provide the following information. If you do not have specific information for each response, please provide such general or descriptive information as you currently have. Please do not hesitate to call the Office's Government Ethics Advisor (b)(6), (b)(7)c , at (b)(6), (b)(7)c or e-mail him at (b)(6), (b)(7)c to discuss this.

1. Name, date and time, and location of event.

   Orange County Bar Association ("OCBA") Annual Dinner, May 5, 2016, Falkirk Estate & Country Club, 206 Smith Clove Road, Central Valley, NY 10917

2. Format of event (*e.g.*, cocktails; presentations; speeches; and/or meal).

   Cocktails, speeches, presentations during the meal.

3. Estimated cost per attendee of event.

   $65 for members. $75 for non-members.

4. Are any attendees being charged to attend the event?

   a. If so, who (in general) is being offered free attendance, and who is expected to pay?

      Supreme, County and Federal judges, U.S. Attorney and District Attorney are being offered free attendance.

5. Name of entity extending the invitation and link to web site (if any).

   Orange County Bar Association - www.orangelaw.org

   a. Is the entity extending the invitation registered with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist pursuant to Section 1603(a) of Title 2 of the United States Code?

      No.

6. Sponsor of event if different from above.

    a. Is the sponsor of the event registered with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist pursuant to Section 1603(a) of Title 2 of the United States Code?

    No.

7. Names of additional entities that will be recognized for sponsorship or support of the event.

    N/A

8. How many persons are expected to attend?

    150 – 200

9. Demographics of expected attendees (*e.g.*, lawyers; law enforcement; business leaders; students; etc.)

    Lawyers, judges and possibly some law enforcement (County Sheriff) and District Attorney

10. Are any elected officials expected to attend and, if so, what is their expected role?

    District Attorney, County Sheriff and State, Supreme and County Judges. Their expected role is as attendees.

11. Is there a fundraising component to the event? (*e.g.*, program advertisements; dinner ticket price; silent auction)? If so, please describe.[1]

    No.

12. Expected role of U.S. Attorney (*e.g.*, simple attendance; remarks; speech)

    Speech.

[1] For events that involve any fundraising leading up to or during the event: The United States Attorney may not participate in any active fundraising activity with respect to the event. Nor may the U.S. Attorney allow his name, position, or title to be used for any fundraising activity for your organization. If applicable, you may list his name as an awardee and/or speaker on the program and on invitations issued not more than 30 days prior to the event, along with other information about the program. He may not be listed on any "save the date" notices. Failure to comply with these limitations may preclude the U.S. Attorney from appearing at the event. If the U.S. Attorney is giving an official speech, he may be seated and have photos taken as appropriate for a speaker at the event, but you may not use his photo in connection with any other fundraising efforts.

13. If the U.S. Attorney is being honored:

    a. What are the criteria your organization applies to determine who should be honored for this specific award?

       No.

    b. What is the internal process by which your organization selects potential honorees?

       N/A

    c. For what specific public service or achievement do you wish to honor the U.S. Attorney?

       N/A

    d. Did any of the accomplishments of the U.S. Attorney which you wish to honor directly affect the organization or its members? (Describe.)

       No.

    e. Do any of the board members or host committee or senior staff have any matters pending before or involving the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York?

       Yes. (b)(6), (b)(7)c – Numerous cases where I represent defendants and witnesses in matters that your office is prosecuting.

    f. Please provide a description and the value of any award item (if the award item is a plaque, certificate or trophy of little intrinsic value, you may so indicate).

       N/A

    g. Who else is expected to be honored at the event?

       James Sweeney, Esq.; Nancy Morgan, Esq.; Daniel Bloom, Esq. (See flyer attached)

14. If the U.S. Attorney is making a presentation, who else is expected to be making a presentation/be on a panel?

    Presentation to outgoing president.

a. Will the U.S. Attorney be presented with a token or memento in appreciation for his presentation?

i. _X_ Nothing
ii. ___ Plaque or other memento of little intrinsic value
iii. ___ Other. Please describe, including its value.

15. Describe any special seating arrangements for U.S. Attorney, *e.g.*, dais, general seating (depending on the nature of the event, the U.S. Attorney may or may not be able to accept "dais" seating.)

U.S. Attorney will be seated with the District Attorney, judges and some OCBA Board members.

16. Promotion of the event: please provide a copy of or link to the invitation/promotional material for the event (or if not available, for the prior year's event).

See attached and www.orangelaw.org